(b) to (c) Pursuant to the submissions made before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India by the Government Counsel on 14.9.2007 in respect of certain Transfer Cases and writ petitions relating to the Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project, the Government has constituted a Committee consisting of eminent persons with the terms of reference to invite objections and suggestions from all concerned including the writ petitioners having interest in the subject matter and to consider all suggestions/proposals/documents after giving them a personal hearing. The report of the Committee is awaited.

Shipbuilding yard at Dharma in Orissa

33. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a state-of-the-art joint-venture shipbuilding/ship repair yard at Dharma in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this labour-intensive industry would generate a good amount of employment opportunities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) At present, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government of India. However, the Government of Orissa has intimated that it has received a proposal for setting up a ship building yard and ship repair facilities at the month of the Dharma river in Bhadrak district in Orissa as a joint venture project. The project proposed to be implemented in three phases, has a potential of providing direct as well as indirect employment to about 56,300 persons. Final decision in the matter is yet to be taken by the Government of Orissa.

Repair of NHs in NER

34. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various National Highways including NH-31-A in NER are in a deplorable condition and they have become rough and rugged due to excessive rainfall/flood this year; and

(b) if so, the action taken for repairing these highways, NH-wise/State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) National Highways including NH-31-A in North-Eastern Region are being maintained in traffic worthy condition within the availability of funds. State-wise funds during 2007-08 for repair of damaged stretches of various National Highways being maintained by State Public Works Department in North Eastern Region due to rain/flood are as below. As far as National Highways being maintained by Border Roads Organisation are concerned, these are maintained by the funds provided under original and maintenance head, and no separate fund is provided under flood damage repair.